

December 12, 1958

Synopsis of State and Intelligence Material Reported to the President

BERLIN

In preparation for his meeting with Secretary Dulles prior to the Secretary's departure for NATO, the President read pages 1 and 2 of the Daily Staff Summary from State Department, dated December 12. These pages may be summarized as follows:

Adenauer's views on Berlin

Adenauer, in a letter to the Secretary of State, has reiterated his conviction that any hesitation or vacillation on the part of the three powers will cause deep anxiety in Berlin. He urgently recommends that an unequivocal communique emanating from the quadri-partite meeting in Paris be issued. He feels that negotiations cannot be conducted under the pressure of an ultimatum-like demand, that the Berlin question and the question of restoring German unity should be dealt with separately. He concludes that the tone and contents of a Paris communique should be decisive for the future course of events and notes that he has written Macmillan and De Gaulle to that effect.

Views on reply to the Soviet note

The U.K. Foreign Office working level believes a serious answer to the Soviet Berlin note should not be rushed, and should be delivered before the Soviet Party Congress convenes in late January. The reply should be lengthy and detailed. No interim reply should be sent. The reply should not make counterproposals on Berlin but should offer to discuss Berlin in a wider German context. The Foreign Office recommends re-examination of the 1955 German proposals. At the Ministerial meeting the Foreign Office would expect three groups to be set up, one to deal with the questions of accesses and countermeasures, another to draft the reply to the Soviet note, and the third to consider the 1955 German position.

The French Foreign Office working level, on the other hand, feels the Soviet note should be answered as soon as possible in a short and factual reply. It should not make counterproposals on Berlin but should express continued willingness to discuss the questions of German reunification and European security. As to the Foreign

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Minister's conference, the French prefer a Berlin statement in a NATO communique rather than in a separate quadri-partite delegation. They prefer the four-power working group not to be situated in Bonn.

British opinion

Whitney reports that a consensus of influential conservatives with whom he recently talked was that Berlin is the major international issue today; access to it must be maintained, even if by force; the Berlin public is not prepared to fight rather than to talk with the GDR; and the USSR does not want a military showdown at this time.

Whitney fears the results of delay in the light of public ignorance of the significance of dealing with or recognizing East Germany. He recommends a reply to be sent fairly soon.



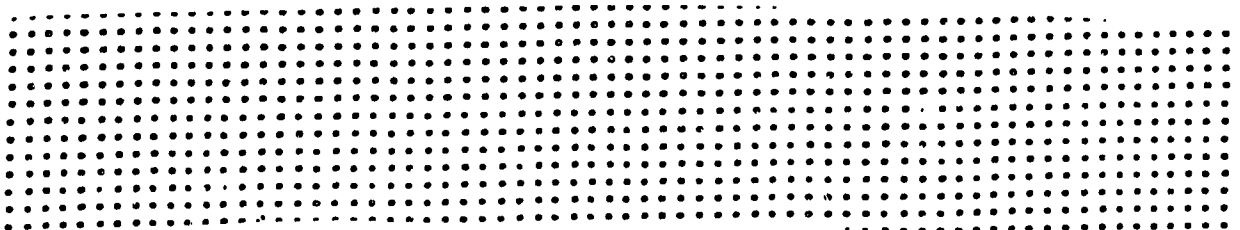
USSR-WESTERN EUROPE

The Soviet commercial attache in The Hague has told a director of Royal Dutch Shell that Moscow plans to market a large quantity of petroleum products in Western Europe. The attache indicated that if Western companies did not agree to market the oil, the USSR would cut prices and undersell them.

ASIA-AFRICA - Iran-Iraq

There is increasing apprehension and nervousness in Iran over the Iraqi situation. Government officials believe Iraq is rapidly going Communist and is hostile to Iran. Certain elements in Iran are considering some form of intervention.

CUBA



JORDAN-SYRIA

John SD Eisenhower

